

The Greatest Testimony



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek

This decision is the greatest testimony in the of the real, vital contribution that Christianity has made to the livelihood of our people. I am pleased to say this realisation possible, by interpreting prac

THE above words were spoken by Madame Chiang Kai-shek on April 6, 1938, at Hankow, to 150 missionaries in their monthly prayer meeting. As over one-half the foreign missionaries of The United Church are in China (North, West and South), the voluntary and whole-hearted tribute of the first lady of China to missionaries is of first-rate importance for us in Canada. The following passages from her notable address are of thrilling interest:

"The Generalissimo wishes me to tell you that he deeply appreciates the fine work which you have been doing to help our people. Please take this as a personal tribute to your courage and self-sacrificing spirit, to your valour and determination to help our people, regardless of the dangers to your own persons and lives. On this point I may say that we both feel deeply that words are inadequate to express our thanks to the whole missionary body in China. . . . The fact that you not only risked your lives in succouring the wounded, but also helped the destitute, and saved many of our women and girls from a fate worse than death, and gave hope and support to all the refugees, has moved the whole Chinese nation to a sense of appreciation of the true Christian spirit which animated you in your actions.

"Some years ago it was quite the fashion to decry missionary efforts as being a failure, and I even remember that a commission was sent out from America to gauge the results of missionary work, because there was then a widespread feeling that missions had failed in their object. . . . I think that if one were to view impartially the work done

Although the actual work you have been doing which I wish to stress, and that is that it is recognised as one of the greatest contributions

*y of China of our appreciation of the value
made to the spiritual well-being and the
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Christianity in its widest sense.*

by the missionaries, especially during these last nine months, one need no longer doubt whether the same stalwart, courageous, intense passion to help humanity is to-day present as it was in the days of pioneering missionaries. I may go a step farther. I would say, from my personal experience, that almost without a single exception all missionaries who are now in the China field have shown themselves to be possessed of those qualities which we so admired in those missionaries of other days whose names have become famous.

“Many people to-day are thrilled when they read of how Morrison worked on his sampan translating the Bible into colloquial Chinese, while edicts from the Imperial Court were ordering guards to arrest him. To-day, however, missionaries are working under even greater handicaps of death and woe than those which harassed Morrison. All of you know only too well what has recently happened in Nanking, Hangchow, Wuhu, and throughout that densely populated region marked by those cities, and how the missionaries have stood their ground and saved hundreds of thousands of our refugees. It was the missionaries who foresaw the need of refugee zones, and they established them early in various places.

“I could go on enumerating instance after instance of the selflessness and charity of missionary efforts. I need not stress here what missionaries, in the past, have already done on education, medical, industrial and agricultural lines to help the people all over the country, because you know the facts as well as I.

*d are doing, is noteworthy, there is one point
spirit which underlies your ceaseless efforts is
which you can make to our people.*

You have asked me to-day to tell you how be only say: continue your efforts in the same d past. From the most unexpected sources I h done and are doing.

It is interesting in passing, however, to mention that when the Generalissimo and I made the first tour of the country, the response of the missionaries everywhere to our request to help in the **New Life Movement** was tremendous. They felt, and could see, that this Movement had unique possibilities of touching the lives of the people and of raising their spiritual and material levels. And so, throughout the country, wherever help has been called for, the missionaries have given themselves wholeheartedly.

"One of the Cabinet Ministers, who is a non-Christian, remarked one day that he was studying the Bible. When asked if he were a Christian, he replied, 'No, but I notice that the Christians throughout the country show a greater self-sacrificing spirit than the others, and therefore I feel that there must be something to Christianity.' Another high Government official, who is also a non-Christian, spoke of the spirit to resist and defend the country, which is now prevailing among our masses, as being similar to that spirit of supreme sacrifice which actuated Jesus Christ when He went to Gethsemane to face the Cross.

"If you remember, some years ago there was much criticism of missionary effort among our Chinese people. To-day those who criticized you in the past have been completely won over by the knowledge of what you are doing. It is certainly true that actions speak louder than words, and this period of trial and suffering has now proved this axiom.

"Some years ago the Government issued an order which forbade religion to be made a compulsory study in any private school. Many of you felt that

We see something heroic in the way the first of an oil lamp, risking his life as his sampan have the benefit of the Bible in terms under.


*you can help us in this national crisis. I can
tion in which you have employed them in the
e heard admiration of the work that you have*

policy to be unfair, and contrary to the principles of missionary enterprise. I, myself, received many letters from your colleagues asking me to use my influence to have this order rescinded. In replying to those letters I wrote that I did not think it would be wise to accept the writers' suggestions until the time was ripe. I wrote, too, that not only was I in sympathy with the missionaries in their hopes to have the law modified but that my sister, Madame Kung (wife of the Prime Minister), would go still farther. She advocated, and I agreed with her, that it should be stipulated that the Bible should be introduced as a selective course on comparative religion.

"It gives me very great pleasure, therefore, to-day to tell you that by your work and the spirit that underlies it, you have made manifest the meaning of true Christianity. The results of your efforts are so appreciated by the Government and the people that the Generalissimo has now found it possible to have that law, forbidding religion to be compulsorily taught in Christian schools, amended, so that religious subjects may henceforth be taught in registered mission schools. This decision is the greatest testimony in the history of China of our appreciation of the value of the real, vital contribution that Christianity has made to the spiritual well-being and the livelihood of our people. I am pleased to say that you have had the leading share in making this realization possible, by interpreting practical Christianity in its widest sense."

*ssionary laboured under the uncertain glimmer
versed tortuous canals, so that the masses may
adable to them.*

The Finest Exhibition of the Christian Spirit by Any Nation in History

 ON May 20th, in the early morning, Chinese planes dropped tons of **paper bombs** on south-western Japan. Here are some of the messages they contained:

If you were fighting for peace in the Orient, then, my friends, you are defeating your very purpose. You can never get peace by slaughtering your neighbours and destroying their property.

Our armed resistance is directed not at the Japanese people but at the military clique which is responsible for your country's policy of aggression.

We know readily that you do not agree in your hearts with the military enterprises of your warlords. But just think: Is it for the good of the people when hundreds of millions in military expenses crush your people to death, will destroy your production and cause your country to collapse?

We are not the enemy of the Japanese people. The fact that all Japanese captives taken by Chinese forces are well treated shows that there is no animosity existing between us.

We Chinese farmers love peace. But for self-preservation we are forced to strike down the Japanese military clique. Since you have also been oppressed by the same clique, let us together fight our common enemy—the Japanese warlords.

Our planes have visited your country. Our aim, however, is not to do damage to your life and property, but to explain the evils of your military caste.

It was Madame Chiang, as head of the Aviation Commission, who made the arrangements for the flight. She advocated dropping leaflets instead of bombs, which would create hatred, and in this plan she was supported by her Christian husband, her Christian brother-in-law, Premier H. H. Kung, and by other Government leaders and high officers in the Air Force.

Shall We Stand by Our Missionaries

in the light of the foregoing tributes by prominent officials of the Chinese Government? The Chinese Government has in a very practical manner paid its tribute to missionaries by granting freedom for teaching religion in mission schools. It has also given strong evidence of the result of Christian missionary effort by dropping friendly leaflets instead of death-dealing bombs on Japan. Shall we now show the same spirit by standing by our missionaries as they stay at their posts in the midst of danger, relieving suffering and ministering in the name of Christ?

Give Liberally

for their support. It is little, at the best, that we can do. They give their lives; we give our money. But "Money is Myself", therefore let us give ourselves through our money and

Pray Constantly

that they may be kept by His grace and strengthened for their trying tasks. Shall we employ 'Three-Way Prayer'—God, Missionaries, Ourselves?

Our Work In China



The Board of Foreign Missions of The United Church of Canada has 153 missionaries in China serving in Honan, West China and South China, in co-operation with many Chinese workers. There are now 12,392 communicants. A Ministry of Preaching, Teaching, Healing and Social Helpfulness is carried on in 15 central Stations and many outstations, 27 Hospitals, over 100 Sunday Schools with 7,970 pupils and 2 Christian Union Universities with nearly 1000 students.



The Work of the Board of Foreign Missions of
The United Church of Canada
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